

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraph [0028] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0028] Fig. 16A is a ~~[[top]]~~ perspective view of a coupling according to one embodiment of the invention;

Please replace Paragraph [0029] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0029] Fig. 16B is a ~~[[top]]~~ perspective view of a coupling according to another embodiment of the invention; and

Please replace Paragraph [0039] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0039] The cover 50 is adapted to be readily installed on the board 22. In one embodiment, the side portions 58 of the cover 50 are generally straight and angled at least slightly inward to frictionally receive and grip the board 22 between the side portions 58. The side portions 58 are resiliently biased inwardly toward the corresponding sides 54, 55 of the floorboard 22. The flexible tension grip of the side portions 58 onto the floorboard 22 prevents the cover 50 from lifting off the floorboards 22 during normal use of the deck. This feature also allows a user to readily install ("snap into place") a cover 50 on a floorboard 22 without requiring the use of fasteners. This feature also allows the cover 50 to be readily removed from the floorboard 22. For example, the cover 50 can be unsnapped off or unzipped from the floorboard 22 when the cover 50 is formed of sufficiently flexible material such as vinyl. Installing the cover 50 can onto a floorboard 22 without fasteners allows the cover 50 to accommodate (e.g., move or shift) at least some contraction and/or expansion of the board 22 within the cover 50.

Please replace Paragraph [0056] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0056] The cover 450 also includes a plurality of openings 466 provided in the side portions 458 for venting of vapor or moisture from the cover 450. The cover 450 also includes overhangs 460 curving generally downwardly from each side edge 453 of the top portion 456. The overhangs 460 form a drip edge to facilitate the flow of liquid off the top portion 456. Preferably, the overhangs 460 ~~[[360]]~~ project downwardly at least to the location of the holes 466 ~~[[366]]~~ to prevent moisture (e.g., water from rain or from cleaning the deck) from entering the holes 466 ~~[[366]]~~.

Please replace Paragraph [0067] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0067] A cover 650 can then be positioned on the floorboard 22. The cover's inwardly bent portions 662 engage ~~[[engaged]]~~ with the inwardly bent portions 694 of the channels 490 of the first and second couplings 690, which are positioned on opposite sides of the floorboard 22.